MR. K. G. GOVINDAN: May I know with reference to answer to part (c) of the question whether all the employees are Travancoreans?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: The report is that a large majority of them are Travancoreans.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN: May I know, if non-Travancoreans are employed there, the reason for it?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: The employment of labourers is in the discretion of the Company. The company are not bound to take only Travancoreans.

Water Cess.

56. ***MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are realising water cess at the rate of Rs. 7 per acre from certain garden and dry lands in the taluks of Kalkulam and Agastisvaram?

MR. K. KUNJAN PILLAI: No; but when dry lands are converted into wet making use of the Kodayar Channel water, water cess at the rate of Rs. 7 per acre is charged on such conversions.

Alkaline Soil.

57 ***MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the soil of a fairly large portion of the paddy fields in Marungoor and adjacent pakuthies is Alkaline; and

(*b*) the steps taken by Government to improve these soils?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Extensive investigations have been carried out and the results thereof, including remedial measures, have been published in Bulletin No. 8 (1924) of the Department of Agriculture. The methods of raising crops successfully on Alkaline lands are demonstrated at the Thiruppathisaram Paddy Farm.

Mavelikara-Chunakara Road.

58 ***MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any amount is allotted for the maintenance of the Mavelikara-Chunakara road *via* Kurathikad in the Mavelikara taluk; and

(*b*) if so, whether any amount has been spent on the same during the years 1115, 1116 and 1117?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, Rs. 1,025 in 1115; Rs. 698 in 1116; Rs. 401 in 1117.

Karampathippu.

59 ***MR. E. E. PANDARATHIL** (*Travancore Jenmies, South*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the approximate number of cases in which "Karampathippu" has been effected in favour of Government; and

(*b*) the amount that will accrue to Government by way of tax?

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MR. K. KUNJAN PILLAI: (*a*) and (*b*) The required information cannot be supplied as the period for which the statistics required has not been specified.

MR. E. E. PANDARATHIL: In answer to part (*a*) may I know when jenmikaram has been decided in favour of Government and if so the latest statistics available on the matter?

MR. K. KUNJAN PILLAI: If the number of years for which information is required is furnished, it will be possible to furnish the same.

MR. E. E. PANDARATHIL: Could not the figures up to last year be ascertained now?

MR. K. KUNJAN PILLAI: I am not in possession of the statistics just now. If the number of years for which information is needed is given, I would have come prepared with full information.

PRESIDENT: If the honourable member wants to know for a certain number of years, then he may give that information just now, and the answer may be furnished during the course of next two or three days.

MR. E. E. PANDARATHIL: I would like to get that information from 1108 onwards.

MR. K. KUNJAN PILLAI: I will note that Sir.

Supply of rice and paddy.

60 ❋ **MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI** (*Tiruvella*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the steps so far taken by Government in the matter of adequate supply of rice and paddy to meet the requirements of the people of the State; and

(*b*) the steps so far taken by Government with a view to make the country self-sufficient in food materials?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) and (*b*) Government have informed the Regional Price and Supply Board, Madras, of the requirements of the State, and have obtained the necessary quota from the rice-producing areas in the Madras Presidency. A vigorous "food production drive" is also being carried on by the Department of Agriculture to increase local production by intensive as well as extensive cultivation.

Various other steps such as providing better facilities for irrigation, cultivating two crops on single crop lands, supplying manures, etc., are also being taken.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know the steps taken by the Department of Agriculture or Government in the matter of extensive cultivation?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, the Department of Agriculture is carrying on intensive campaign to carry out extensive cultivation and over 600 to 700 acres of land have been given to the co-operative societies for the cultivation of tapioca.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether any scheme has been inaugurated for leasing out swampy areas in the reserve forests for a prescribed period so that they may be cultivated

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